

Message Text

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11

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 /035 W

----- 050522

P R 090721Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6280

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, GB

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT FOR AIR AFFAIRES GABON

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 0407; (B) LIBREVILLE 0219

1. EMBOFF RECEIVED CALL APRIL 7 FROM BELLANGER, DIRECTOR OF AIR AFFAIRES STATING THAT BEECHCRAFT AIRPLANES ORDERED BY AIR AFFAIRES STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED EXPORT LICENSES. HE SAID AIR AFFAIRES EXTREMELY UPSET BY THIS SINCE PLANES ALREADY PAID FOR, CUSTOMERS IMPATIENT FOR DELIVERY AND AIR AFFAIRES PILOTS WAITING TO BE CHECKED OUT ON PLANES. HE MADE POINT THAT AIR AFFAIRES HAD DONE EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH COMMERCE REGULATIONS (REF A) AND STATED THAT THIS WAS NO WAY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS. HE REPEATED THAT SITUATION VERY DISTURBING AND HOPED THAT PLANES COULD BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.

2. COMMENT: ABOVE SITUATION EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING TO EMBASSY AND DAMAGING TO OUR COMMERCIAL POSITION. BELLANGER ONE OF MOST POWERFUL MEN IN GABON. OF EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IS FACT PRESIDENT BONGO AN IMPORTANT STOCKHOLDER IN AIR AFFAIRES SURELY NOW AWARE OF DELAY AND ITS CAUSES. SINCE ALL IMPORTANT

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DECISIONS (INCLUDING COMMERCIAL) TAKEN BY PRESIDENT,

THIS SEEMINGLY HAUGHTY TREATMENT OF AIR AFFAIRES BOUND
TO ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN A
NUMBER OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROJCTS (DAMS, MINERAL
PORT) WHICH REPRESENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS
TO SAY NOTHING OF HARM IT DOES TO EXCELLENT AND LEGITIMATE
REPEAT LEGITIMATE BUSINESS WE DO IN AIRCRAFT SALES HERE.
EMBASSY UNABLE TO JUSTIFY DELAY IN ISSUING EXPTRT LICENSE
TO ITSELF MUCH LESS TO AIR AFFAIRES. ACCORDING TO OUR
READING OF AIR AFFAIRES DOSSIER, COMPANY HAS COMPLIED
WITH ALL RELEVANT REGULATIONS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY HAS
PROVIDED WRITTEN ASSURANCES IT WILL OBSERVE RHODESIAN
SANCTIONS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLIEST POSSIBLE ISSUANCE OF PENDING
LICENSES.
COUNTRYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIBREV00490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750123-0121
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750468/aaaackcb.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LIBREVILLE 0407, 75 LIBREVILLE 0219
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT FOR AIR AFFAIRES GABON CASABLANCA FOR RCAA
TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, GB, BEEHCRAFT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006